

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 301805

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 IGA-02 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AGR-05

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DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:DKUX:CSB

APPROVED BY NEA/ADUBS

AID/ASIA/SA/SIN:JCOLES

AID/ACTG. AA/ASIA:MADLER

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P 232148Z DEC 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:EAID, IN

SUBJECT:FY 76 AID PROGRAM

REF: NEW DELHI 17060

1. SEPARATE AIDAC CHANNEL MESSAGE RESPONDS TO MISSION RE-COMMENDATIONS REGARDING JANUARY CONSULTATIONS FOR AID AFFAIRS OFFICER (REFTEL). BISSET WILL NOW BE RETURNING HERE IMMEDIATELY AFTER HOLIDAY SEASON AND NO SUBSTANTIVE DECISION ON THE ISSUES RAISED IN THE REFTEL NEED BE TAKEN BEFORE THEN. WE PLAN TO HOLD UP ACTION UNTIL WE HAVE A CHANCE TO DISCUSS REFTEL AND OTHER ISSUES RELATING TO FY 76 AND 77 PROGRAMS WITH BISSET.

2. REGARDING FY 76 AID APPROPRIATION PROCESS OUR BEST CURRENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 STATE 301805

RENT ESTIMATE IS THAT FINAL CONGRESSIONAL ACTION IS LIKELY

TO BE COMPLETED BY EARLY MARCH 1976. EVEN ALLOWING FOR FURTHER SLIPPAGE, WE CURRENTLY ANTICIPATE THAT AT LEAST THREE MONTHS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR FORMAL AID DISCUSSIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS WITH, IN OTHER WORDS, ADEQUATE TIME TO CONCLUDE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE GOI ON FY 76 LOANS AND TO HAVE AN AUTHORIZATION OF A LOAN PROGRAM BY THE END OF FY 76. ON THE BASIS OF OUR PAST EXPERIENCE, 4-6 WEEKS SHOULD SUFFICE FOR FORMAL DISCUSSIONS AND PREPARATION OF LOAN DOCUMENTS.

3. REGARDING DIRECTION OF FY 76 PROGRAM, THE INFORMAL EXCHANGES YOU ARE HAVING WITH THE INDIANS AT THE TECHNICAL LEVEL HAVE BEEN MOVING WELL AND SHOULD BE CONTINUED. AS YOU KNOW FROM PREVIOUS TELEGRAMS, WE ARE SATISFIED WITH THE PROJECTS SO FAR DELINEATED. BISSET'S CONSULTATIONS SHOULD PROVIDE A USEFUL OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE THESE DEVELOPMENT LOANS IN MORE DETAIL SO THAT FOLLOW-ON EXCHANGES WITH THE INDIANS CAN TAKE PLACE IN DELHI AS APPROPRIATE IN ORDER TO PREPARE THE WAY FOR FORMAL AID DISCUSSIONS AFTER FINAL CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON THE APPROPRIATION. WE SHOULD BE IN BETTER POSITION TO GAUGE LIKELY PROGRAM LOAN LEVELS FOR FY 76 DURING BISSET'S CONSULTATIONS. CLEARLY THERE WILL PRESUMABLY BE SOME CUT BELOW \$75 MILLION, BUT HOW MUCH AT THIS JUNCTURE REMAINS UNCLEAR. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

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